

## Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-04

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FOR US DEL TO LOS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC PARIS RABAT FROM MADRID

07 MAR 73:

QUOTE MADRID 1148

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EFIS PBOR PINT SP MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN WATERS EXTENSION

1. OVER PAST FEW DAYS, SPANISH PRESS HAS GIVEN ATTENTION TO REPORTED MOROCCAN LEGISLATION RE: TAKEOVER OF FOREIGN- HELD FARMLAND, MOROCCANIZATION OF FOREIGN-CONTROLLED SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AND EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS AND FISHING JURISDICTION.
  2. MADRID PAPER ABC MARCH 3 NOTED THAT WHILE FRENCH FIRMS PRIMARY TARGET OF MOROCCAN TAKEOVER FARMLAND, SPANISH FARM INVESTMENTS, WHICH EXCEED 500 MILLION PESETAS, COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED.
  3. MADRID PAPER YA MARCH 6 REPORTED PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS IN RABAT TO ESTABLISH NEW ACCORD FOR COOPERATION IN FISHING
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MATTERS. SPANISH DELEGATION WILL BE COMPOSED OF REPS FROM DIRECCIONES GENERALES DE RELACIONES ECONOMICAS INTERNACIONALES Y PESCA AND FROM INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE INDUSTRIA (INI), SHAREHOLDER IN SOCIEDAD HISPANO-MARROQUI DE PESCA. TODAY'S YA ARTICLE REPORTS MOROCCAN DELEGATION MAY BE HEADED BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL OFFICE OF FISHERIES, DAHMAN LAYACHI, BELIEVED TO BE ARCHITECT OF MOROCCAN DECREE.

4. YA NOTED IN MARCH 4 ARTICLE THAT ACCORD WORKABLE BECAUSE MOROCCANS LACK VESSELS AND MODERN FISHING MATERIALS. ARTICLE SAID FRANCE TRYING TO REACH SIMILAR ACCORD. ARTICLE CONCLUDED QTE OUR COUNTRY CAN OFFER TO OUR FISHERMEN THE CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND NAVAL PROTECTION TO SPANISH FISHING BOATS WHICH DO NOT PENETRATE FURTHER THAN 12- MILES UNQTE.

5. ABC MARCH 3 ARTICLE MENTIONED ABOVE ALSO MADE GENERAL OBSERVATION BOTH COUNTRIES SHARE STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE STRAIGHT OF GIBRALTAR AND SPANISH/ MOROCCAN FRIENDSHIP MUST PREVAIL ABOVE ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION. ARTICLE SAID HASSAN'S TEMPERATENESS AND CLEAR LOGIC ARE MOROCCO'S MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND HISTORIC ASSETS AND MUST BE PRESERVED.

6. MFA DIRECTOR OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT SPAIN AND MOROCCO WILL BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS SOON ON ACCORD RE: SPANISH FISHING NEAR MOROCCO. MFA INFORMED THAT FRANCE AND JAPAN HAVE ALREADY WORKED OUT SUCH ACCORDS WITH MOROCCO. MFA UNDERSTANDING IS THAT NEW MOROCCAN LEGISLATION WILL REQUIRE VESSELS FISHING WITHIN 12 MILES OF MOROCCO TO FLY MOROCCAN FLAG BUT MAY OPERATE UNDER JOINT ENTERPRISE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN MOROCCAN AND FOREIGN INTERESTS, WHILE VESSELS FISHING BETWEEN 12 AND 70 MILES FROM MOROCCAN COAST MAY FLY FOREIGN FLAG BUT WILL REQUIRE GOM LICENSE. QUERIED RE: MOROCCAN CAPTURE OF SPANISH FISHING BOATS AND REPORTED MISTREATMENT OF CREWS, MFA OFFICIAL EXPRESSD HOPE SUCH DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE RESOLVED WHEN SPANISH- MOROCCAN FISHING ACCORD REACHED. RIVERO UNQUOTE ROGERS

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